

Big John, Moon Valley, Prosperine Accesses

Ten Year Area Management Plan FY 2013 – 2022



Juan B. Allen

Forestry Division Chief

1-27-14

Date

Big John, Moon Valley, Prosperine Accesses Management Plan

Approval Page

PLANNING TEAM

Matthew Hitchings, Conservation Agent, Planning Committee Chair

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Matt Curry, Private Land Conservationist

Craig Fuller, Fisheries Management Biologist

Jay Barber, Conservation Education Consultant

Andy Austin, Fisheries Regional Supervisor, SW-RCT Representative

SW RCT Chair



Signature

12-31-13

Date

FORESTRY DIVISION

Forestry Unit Chief



Signature

1-14-14

Date

OVERVIEW

Area Name	Area Number	Year Acquired	Acreage	County	Administrative Responsibility	Maintenance Responsibility
Big John Access	7010	11/30/1971	16	Dallas	Forestry	Forestry
Moon Valley Access	7006	4/29/1971	4	Dallas	Forestry	Forestry
Prosperine Access	6103	1961	7.5	Laclede	Forestry	Forestry

Statements of Purpose:

A. Strategic Direction

These areas are managed to provide public fishing access to the Niangua River for both boat and bank anglers.

B. Desired Future Condition

The desired future condition of these accesses is to provide forested accesses that help protect and provide access to the Niangua River.

C. Federal Aid Statement

Big John Access and Moon Valley Access, or portions thereof, were acquired with Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration funds to restore and manage sport fish, conserve and restore sport fish habitat (or a buffer to protect that habitat) and provide public access for sport fishing.

GENERAL INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS

I. Special Considerations

Area	Priority Area	Natural Area	Other
Big John Access	N/A	N/A	Federally Designated Critical Habitat
Moon Valley Access	Upper Niangua Terrestrial Conservation Opportunity Area (COA); Priority Forest Landscape	N/A	
Prosperine Access	Upper Niangua Terrestrial COA; Bennett Spring Aquatic COA; Priority Forest Landscape	N/A	White Ribbon Trout Area; Endangered Species Priority Stream Reach

II. Important Natural Features and Resources

Area	Species of Conservation Concern	Caves	Springs	Other
Big John Access	Yes*	None	None	None
Moon Valley Access	Yes*	None	None	None
Prosperine Access	Yes*	None	None	None

*Species of conservation concern are known from this area. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the Natural History Biologist.

III. Existing Infrastructure

Area	Concrete ramp	Gravel bar access	Privy	Parking area #	Camping sites
Big John Access	No	1	No	2	No
Moon Valley Access	1	No	No	1	No
Prosperine Access	No	1	No	1	No

IV. Area Restrictions or Limitations

Area	Easements	Federal Interest	Cultural Resources	Hazards	Endangered Species	Boundary Issues
Big John Access	Yes ¹	Yes ²	None known	None known	Yes ⁴	None known
Moon Valley Access	Yes ¹	Yes ³	None known	None known	Yes ⁵	None known
Prosperine Access	N/A	N/A	None known	None known	Yes ⁵	None known

¹ Easement: Dallas County Road.

² Federal Interest: Big John Access, or a portion thereof, was acquired with Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration funding. Uses of land acquired with federal funds may not interfere with the purpose for which it was acquired. Closures to sport fishing must be based on the recommendations of the state fish and wildlife agency for fish and wildlife management purposes. Federal funds may also be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the

purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

³ Federal Interest: Moon Valley Access, or a portion thereof, was acquired and developed with Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration funding. The Department must maintain the developed project throughout its useful life. Uses of land acquired with federal funds may not interfere with the purpose for which it was acquired. Closures to sport fishing must be based on the recommendations of the state fish and wildlife agency for fish and wildlife management purposes. Federal funds may also be used in the management of this land. Fish and wildlife agencies may not allow recreational activities and related facilities that would interfere with the purpose for which the State is managing the land. Other uses may be acceptable and must be assessed in each specific situation.

⁴ Endangered Species are not known from this site, but are found in the surrounding area. Area Managers should consult annually with the Natural History Biologist.

⁵ Endangered Species are known from this area. Area Managers should consult the Natural Heritage Database annually and review all management activities with the Natural History Biologist.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

V. Terrestrial Resource Management Considerations

Management centers on providing bank and boat access to the Niangua River and preventing activities from compromising stream bank integrity. Currently only Moon Valley Access has a developed boat ramp. There are few wildlife or forestry resources on these small areas. Area maintenance is provided by staff within Forestry Division.

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Maintain adequate riparian corridor.
- 2) Prevent soil erosion.
- 3) Control invasive and exotic species.

Management Objective 1: Maintain riparian corridors as specified in the Department's Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines (2009).

Strategy 1: Allow natural vegetative processes to continue.

Strategy 2: Replace dead trees as needed to maintain riparian cover.

Strategy 3: Control access by restricting vehicles to parking lots and boat ramp or boat launching area only.

Management Objective 2: Prevent soil erosion due to infrastructure.

Strategy 1: Ensure roads and road-side drainages are managed to reduce runoff, sedimentation and erosion.

Management Objective 3: Control invasive and exotic species.

Strategy 1: Periodically monitor area for invasive and exotic species and use appropriate strategies for management. These could include mechanical, chemical and/or prescribed fire treatments.

VI. Aquatic Resource Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities:

- 1) Prevent excessive stream bank erosion.

Management Objective 1: Ensure that infrastructure does not increase bank erosion.

Strategy 1: Boat ramps, parking areas and primitive launch areas will be installed and maintained to have a low profile on the bank to prevent back eddies and scouring currents.

VII. Public Use Management Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities

- 1) Providing public access along the Niangua River.
- 2) Inform the public of the opportunities available at these areas.
- 3) Maintaining areas in a desirable condition.

Management Objective 1: Maintain suitable public access at each area.

Strategy 1: Ensure existing infrastructure is maintained to MDC standards.

Management Objective 2: Continue to inform the public of the opportunities at these areas.

Strategy 1: Maintain signage at the accesses in accordance with MDC policy.

Strategy 2: Work with local media specialist to highlight underutilized resources.

Strategy 3: Maintain up-to-date information of all Niangua River accesses on MDC web page.

VIII. Administrative Considerations

Challenges and Opportunities

- 1) Ensuring all easements are properly documented and filed.
- 2) Evaluate land offered as additions to these areas.

Management Objective 1: Make sure all easements are properly filed at County Recorder's Office.

Strategy 1: Use GIS to ensure easements are properly located.

Management Objective 2: Expand these areas only if unique conditions occur.

Strategy 1: Closely evaluate property offered to MDC for sale to ensure it promotes and enhances the purpose of the area or helps to protect sensitive habitat.

Strategy 2: Expansion of these areas should be considered only after review of impacts to work loads and whether area can be maintained using current staffing level.

MANAGEMENT TIME TABLE

Strategies are considered ongoing unless listed in the following table:

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Administrative										
Objective 1										
Strategy 1		X								

APPENDICES

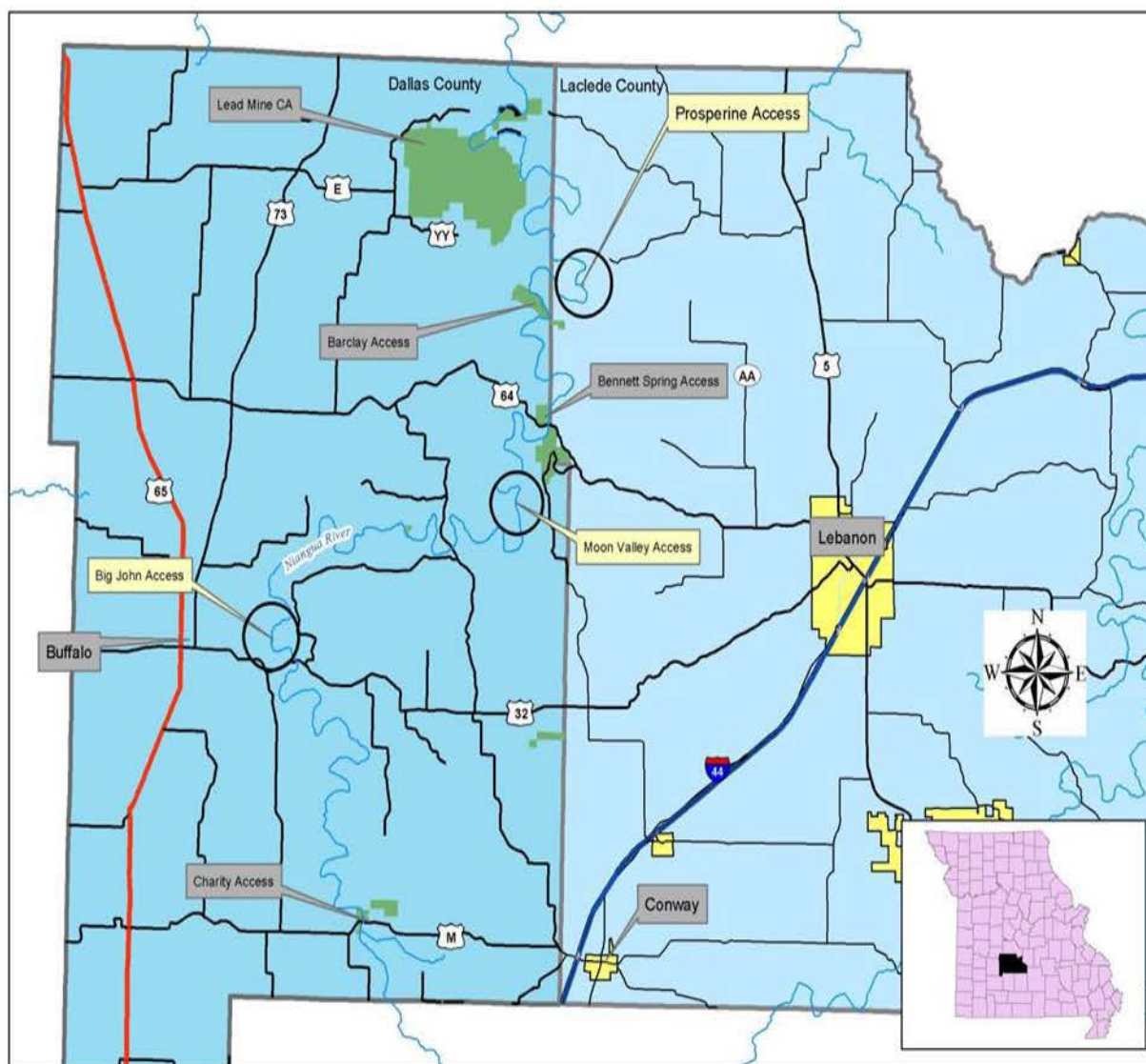
Public Input Summary:

The draft Big John, Moon Valley, Prosperine Accesses Area Management Plan was available for a public comment period October 1 - October 31, 2013. The Missouri Department of Conservation received no comments during this time period.

References:

Missouri Department of Conservation. (April 2009), *Watershed and Stream Management Guidelines for Lands and Waters Managed by Missouri Department of Conservation*, (32 pages)

Appendix 1. Laclede & Dallas County river accesses on the Niangua River.



Appendix 2. Big John Access Area Background

Big John Access was purchased from willing sellers in 1971 and has provided significant public use since that time. Bank anglers also have a small length of bank that provides access to some rocky areas and root wads that hold game fish throughout the year. The area includes a small amount of bottomland timber. Previously open areas were planted with bottomland tree species shortly after acquisition. Primitive small boat access is provided by a gently sloped gravel launch adjacent to the Steelman Bridge

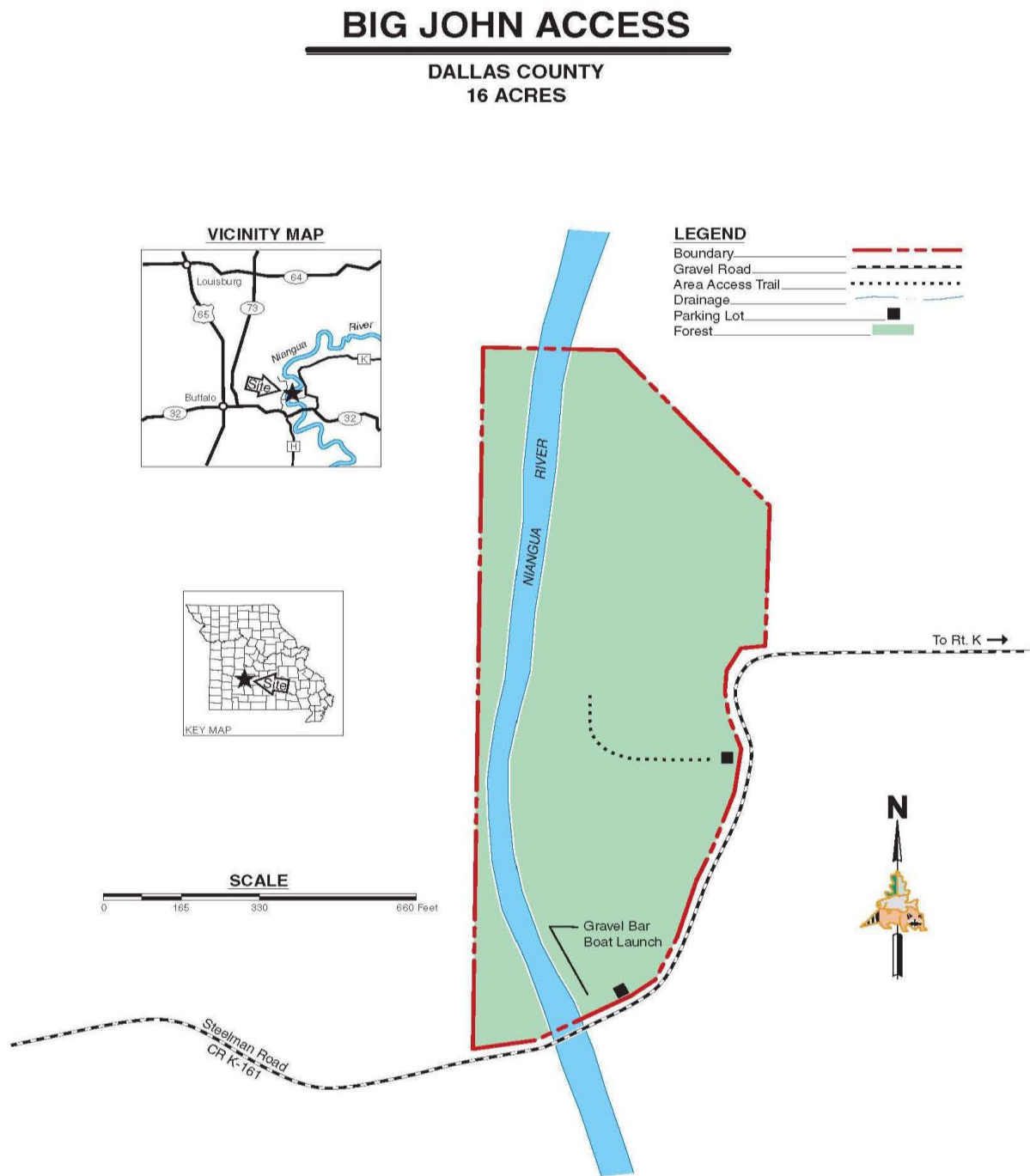
Legal Description: Township 34 North, Range 19 West, Section 29.

Area Location: Big John Access is located two miles east of Buffalo on Highway 32, then one mile north on Engle Lane, then 0.25 mile east on Steelman Road to the Niangua River. Big John Access lies 19.3 river miles downstream of Charity Access and 10.9 river miles upstream of Williams Ford Access.

Current Land and Water Types

Big John Access Land/Water Types	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Bottomland Forest	16		100
Stream Frontage (1 st order and above)		0.29	

Appendix 3. Map of Big John Access.



Appendix 4. Moon Valley Access Area Background

Moon Valley Access was purchased from willing sellers in 1971. The area has a concrete boat ramp that currently leads from the parking area to a gravel bar where launching of small boats and canoes is possible. It lies immediately downstream from the Moon Valley Road Bridge low-water crossing.

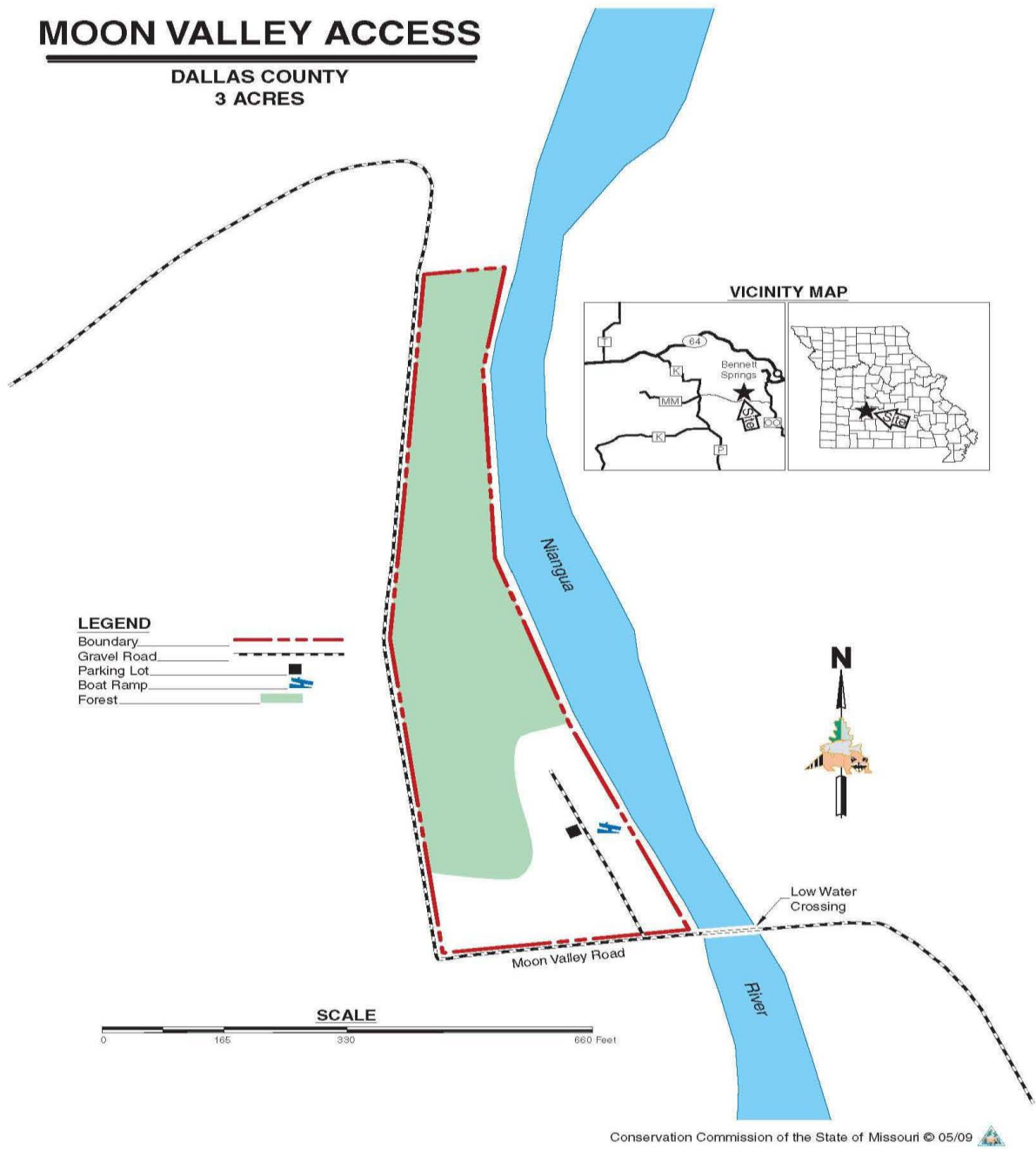
Legal Description: Township 34 North, Range 18 West, Section 2.

Area Location: Moon Valley Access is 1.5 miles south of Bennett Spring State Park on Route OO, then west 1.5 miles on Moon Valley Road just across a low-water crossing. Moon Valley Access lays 10.1 river miles downstream of Big John Access and 7.9 river miles upstream of Bennett Spring Access.

Current Land and Water Types

Moon Valley Access Land/Water Types	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Bottomland Forest	3		100
Stream Frontage (1 st order and above)		0.25	

Appendix 5. Map of Moon Valley Access.



Appendix 6. Prosperine Access Area Background

Prosperine Access was purchased from willing sellers in 1961. It lies at the mouth of Mountain Creek which enters the Niangua River just upstream from the access. A line of large boulders is maintained on the east boundary of the area to prevent the public from driving off the access onto a gravel bar section of adjacent private land. Bank fishing and small boat access is possible on the gravel bar portion of the access, however no developed launching area is provided.

Legal Description: Township 35 North, Range 17 West, Section 5.

Area Location: Prosperine Access is 12 miles northwest of Lebanon, go two miles west of Lebanon on Highway 64 to Route AA. Take Route AA until the blacktop ends. Turn west 4.5 miles on Kinfolk Road and watch for cantilever sign. Prosperine Access lies 6.0 miles downstream of the Barclay Conservation Area river access and 13.1 miles upstream of Lead Mine Conservation Area river access.

Current Land and Water Types

Prosperine Access Land/Water Types	Acres	Miles	% of Area
Bottomland Forest	8		100
Stream Frontage (1 st order and above)		0.09	

Appendix 7. Map of Prosperine Access.

